Castlemaine Naturalist

February 2024

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Monthly newsletter of the Castlemaine Field Naturalists Club Inc.

Vale George Arthur Broadway
13th April 1934 – 2nd January 2024

George Broadway, the Castlemaine Field Naturalists Club's longest serving active member, died on 2nd January, 3 months before his 90th birthday. For almost 60 years George played a highly significant role in studying, recording and protecting native flora and fauna of the Castlemaine region, supported by his wife Phee.

George and Phee came to Castlemaine in 1965 from teaching in Mildura for George to teach Chemistry and coordinate the science program at Castlemaine High School, where Ern Perkins was also teaching. Within a year, Ern and George joined the local group working to protect from its sale for housing the Kaweka Wildflower Reserve that had been given to the people of Castlemaine in the 1930s. A decade later Ray Bradfield was supported by George, Ern, Rita Mills and others in founding the Castlemaine Field Naturalists Club, in March 1976. Later, in the 1990s, George joined the Taradale District Walking Club and was President for many years. So, through active involvement and leadership or support of these and other groups, George made a major contribution to the development of the strong environmental focus in our area.

Rita Mills, who was appointed to the then new role of Lab Assistant at the high school, remembers George as a very able teacher and Coordinator of the Science Department, with the ability to guide without making the learner feel inadequate.

When the Castlemaine Field Naturalists Club was founded in 1976 with Ray Bradfield as President, George was appointed as co-Vice President together with Geoff Sitch, Rita as Secretary and Ern as Newsletter Editor. In the decades since, George held the roles of President four times (2-3 years each time), Treasurer (2 years), and Secretary for 17 continuous years (2000 to 2016)!

At the end of 2015 George, Ern Perkins and Rita Mills were made Life Members in recognition of their critical contributions to the club's achievements over 40 years. George was President in 2019 when the club hosted over 100 field naturalists from across Victoria to show them our special flora and fauna, repeating a gathering

George had organised in 1998. He continued as a member of the committee, bringing quiet expert advice in support of those of us who lacked his knowledge of the club's history and his deep knowledge of our region. On a personal note, since taking over as Secretary from George in 2017 and then as President, I have found his expert and wise advice invaluable.

George made immense contributions to the activities, records and publications of the club. He led countless field trips, notably along the Fryers Ridge Road in springtime, recorded plant lists, took thousands of photographs, created information pamphlets such as on the 'Significant Trees of the Castlemaine Botanical Gardens' and wrote articles for the monthly newsletter, for which he prepared a detailed index covering nearly 50 years. He and Phee visited many of the Photo Point sites in the area for the 2020 repeat of those set up by Ern Perkins in 2000 and repeated in 2010.

CFNC excursion to Tullaroop Reservoir, 1997. Front L to R: Maggie Oliver, George and Phee Broadway, Kaye Turner. *Photo: Ern Perkins.*

Phee and George were embedded in other aspects of the life of Castlemaine, notably through Phee's leadership of the Castlemaine State Festival for many years – with George's active support – as evident from the hundreds of mourners at his funeral.

Of special note was George's devotion to the Kaweka Wildflower Reserve. Members of the Kaweka Committee remember George's inspiring fascination with our native flora, his generosity in sharing his extraordinary knowledge, his tireless work in maintenance of the Reserve and documenting what was in flower month by month and his advice on suitable new plantings. Many of us who visit Kaweka use the plant labels that George was keeping up to date until recently. He was President, Secretary, Treasurer and archivist over the years.

Typical George photographing on an excursion, 2009. *Photo: Noel Young.*

Many Castlemaine field naturalists have learnt from George's deep knowledge of the native flora, fungi, birds and other fauna, and his willingness to share it. Geraldine Harris, a former student and later a member of the committee, has written "I have always had immense respect for these older members of our club and feel so very sad with their passing. George was a constant and quiet source of wisdom, an encouraging and positive mentor, a humble and gentle supporter and fellow scholar, and always a truly gentle man. I will miss his quiet enthusiasm, his endearing sense of humour, and his enormous knowledge of our natural world."

As will we all, as we mourn the loss of a dear friend and colleague, while being so thankful for the wonderful legacy George has left the club, the community and our natural environment.

Peter Turner

George (6th from left) enjoying a CFNC excursion to check nest boxes for Phascogales and possums with Jess Lawton, Connecting Country, 2021. *Photo: Jenny Rolland*.

Good Op Shop Donation

Last December, we were very pleased to receive a generous donation of $1000 from the Good Op Shop! This will be put towards the printing of a revision of the club's "Indigenous Plants of Castlemaine and Surrounds" glossy brochure. We are extremely grateful for this donation.

THE GOOD OP SHOP

The Good Op Shop Castlemaine sells second-hand goods to keep them out of landfill for longer, and to raise money for conservation and sustainability projects. Open Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10am to 4pm at 4 Lewis Drive Castlemaine. Try second-hand first! And follow us on Facebook and Instagram to learn more about what we do and how you can get involved: @thegoodopshop.

December Events Report

Our final Monthly Meeting, held on Friday 8th December, was a Members' night where members made short presentations on their special sightings for the year, covering a wide range of interesting and entertaining topics. Geoff Harris gave us a beautiful rendition of "Carols of the birds" and Mez Woodward read us a delightful story about her interaction with a stunning Golden Stag Beetle and its important message for all of us!

Golden Stag Beetle (*Lamprima aurata*)
Photo: Mez Woodward

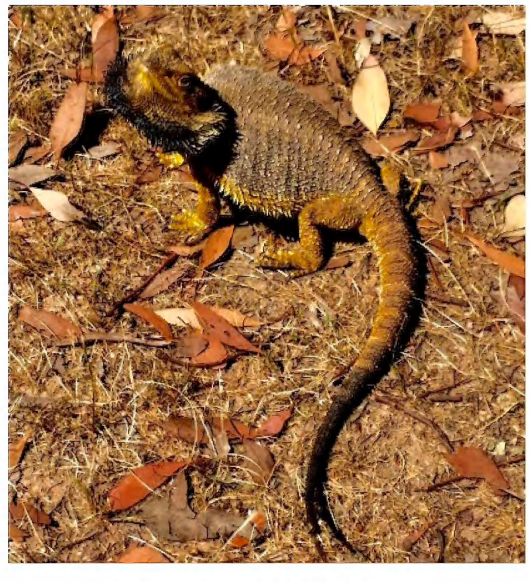
Some of the photos and follow-up articles from this night are below, and others will appear in later editions of this newsletter.

Finally, members gathered on Tuesday 12th December in the Castlemaine Botanical Gardens for an enjoyable late afternoon picnic in some welcome shade.

Kerrie Jennings

Brown Falcon - juvenile (see rufous wash and tufts of down still on head) - local Baringhup property, 3 Dec.

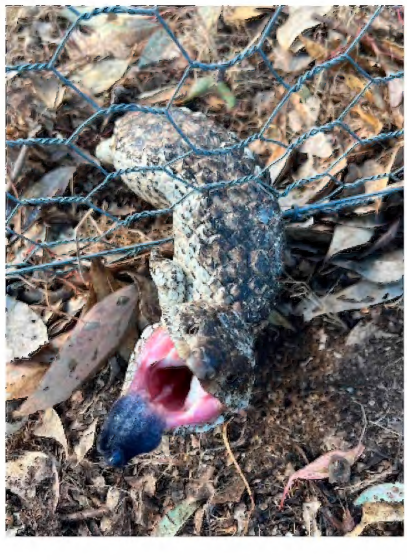
Win Jodell



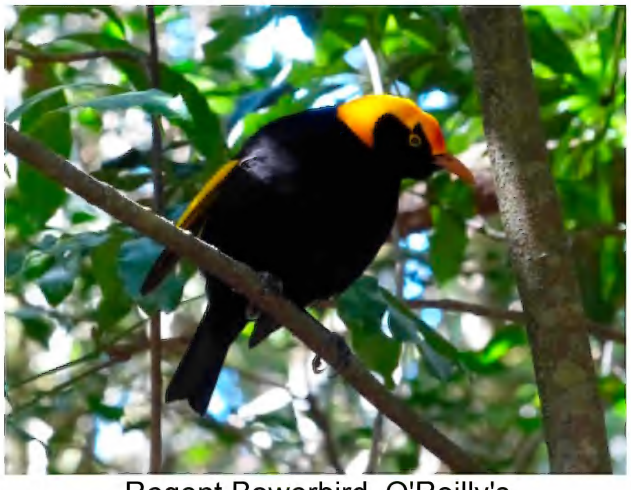
Eastern Bearded Dragon, *Pogona barbata*. Castlemaine Golf Course, 29 Nov.

Geraldine Harris

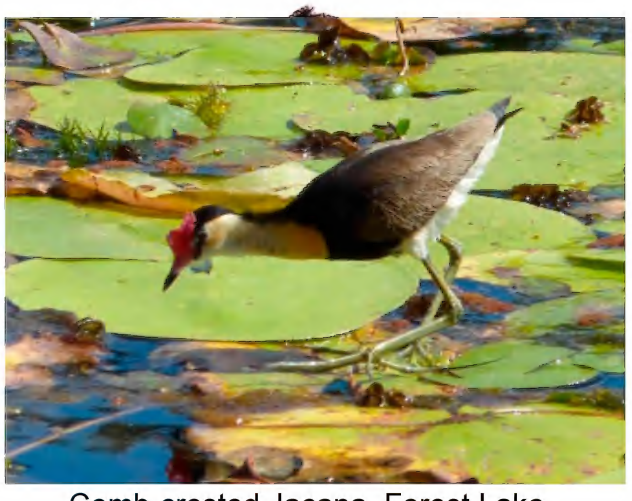
Shingleback caught in a rabbit-proof fence on their property, and eagerly accepting a drink after its rescue. 16 Nov.



Noel Young – from a visit to Brisbane, August-September 2023



Regent Bowerbird, O'Reilly's.



Comb-crested Jacana, Forest Lake.

Eastern Osprey, Stradbroke Island.

Bush Stone-curlew, Mt. Cout-tha botanical gardens.

Lou Citroen: There are Pardalotes nesting in my backyard!

Their courting ritual must have started back in September of this year.

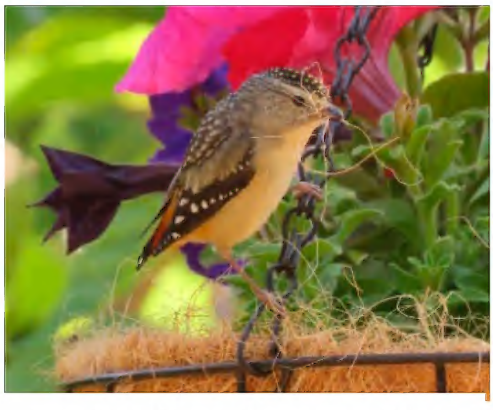
Animated calling for a mate

I noticed presumably a male Pardalote – I have difficulty distinguishing between the sexes – perching a few times on our grapevine wire and calling very loudly while warily watching this human with a camera, but seemingly unperturbed or just determined! The calling was accompanied with much animation; stretching of the neck, fluffing of feathers and raising a crest as I had not seen them do before. He was clearly drawing attention to himself, I assume, to impress a female … somewhere.

The timing of this apparent courting behaviour was consistent with my Pizzey and Knight field guide; i.e. between September and December.

By chance, a little later, I spotted a burrow, about 50mm in diameter, in a little bank at the other end of our backyard, conspicuous by a little excavation mullock heap near the entrance. I suspected Pardalote activity, but there was no tell-tail activity

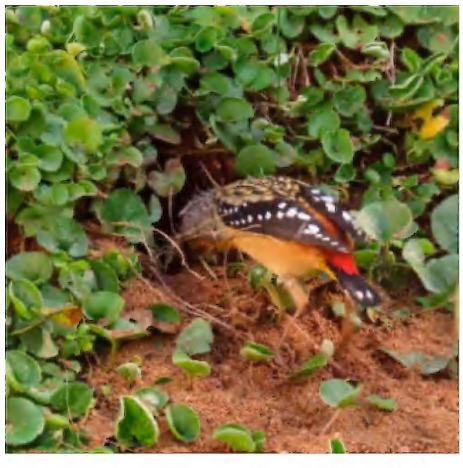
visible (at that time!); until, a week or so later when our flower basket was being raided for fibres - beakfuls at a time and whisked away to an as-yet unknown destination.



Raiding fibres for nest-making

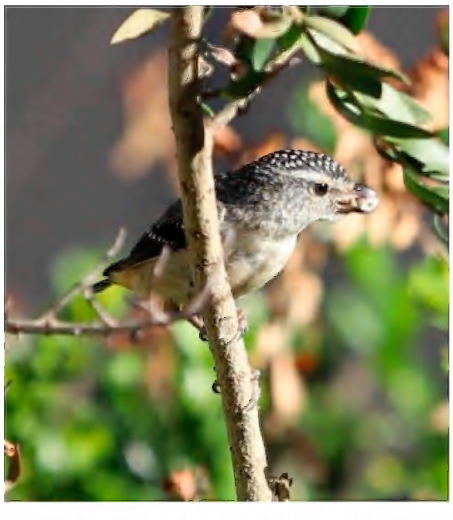
All was to be revealed, as sure enough, a week or so later, whilst Liz and I were working in the garden nearby, we observed the regular comings and goings between two Pardalotes who would drop down from a nearby bush, with fibres in beak, to land at the burrow entrance, then crawl inside. They seemed oblivious of us, being totally focussed on getting the babies' room ready. This was around 11 October.

Nest preparations continued with vigour for days, possibly a week or more with both adults sharing the work, tag-teaming every 20 minutes or so during the day.



Taking nest material into the burrow

One imagines that the precious eggs were laid in the intervening period as, by 11 November, it was clear that young were being fed. A frenetic shuttle service of food gathering and delivery by Mum and Dad Pardalote had begun. The nourishing substance held in the parents' beaks as they arrived was invariably a small white lump (perhaps lerp). For a couple of weeks or so prior to the young leaving the nest, we were delighted to hear two tiny little voices emanating from within the burrow whenever the parents arrived.



Parent delivering white nourishment

By 6 December the young were clearly ready for the big wide world. I watched with amazement as the parents clearly knew when the time was right for them to take flight. That day, the parents' feeding behaviours suddenly changed to exited fluttering around the burrow entrance, clearly urging the young to come out. I raced to get the camera, just in time to capture the first little face appearing; and then the second. And how special it was to witness, when they did emerge one after the other, that the young's very first

The first young emerging, just seconds before 'take-off'.

unpractised wing beats were unfaltering as they shot out in a blur of motion to join the parents in a nearby tree.

It was such a thrill to have witnessed this miracle of Nature, from the Pardalotes courting, to the successful fledging of their young!

Euan Moore: Banksias and Pollinators

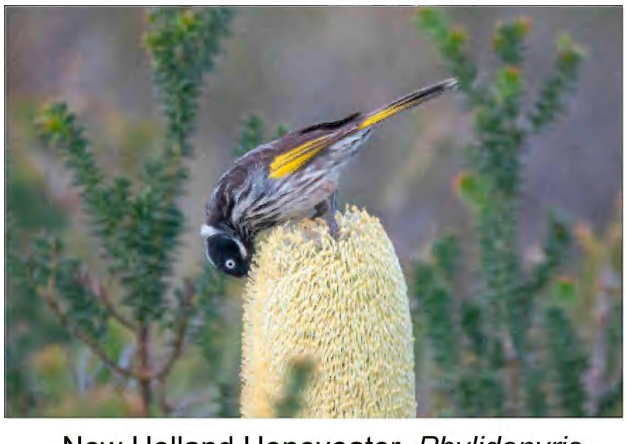
The genus Banksia is native to Australia with the range of only one of the 170 plus species extending outside Australia to Papua New Guinea and eastern Indonesia. There are nine or so species found in Victoria. The genus is centred on WA where there is maximum diversity. Current taxonomies now include the Dryandras in the Banksia genus.

There are a variety of pollinators. The robust flower spikes are adapted to and particularly suitable for a wide range of pollinators, including insects, birds and mammals.

During a recent visit to south-west Western Australia several of these pollinators were observed in action.

Marbled Xenica, *Geitoneura klugii*, on Candlestick Banksia, *Banksia attenuata.*

Honey Possum, *Tarsipes rostratus*, on Creeping Banksia, *Banksia repens.*



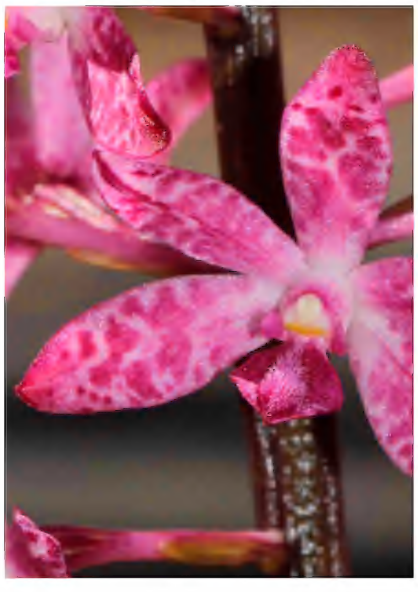
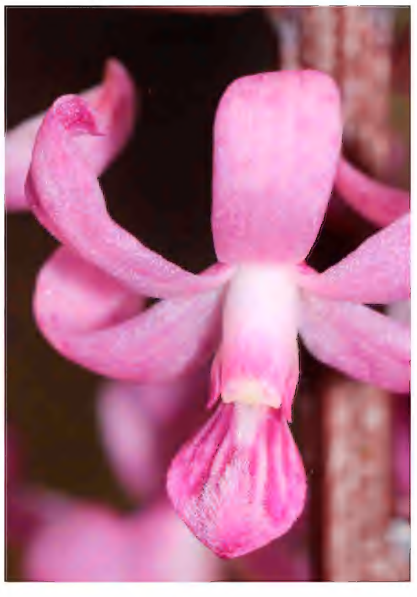
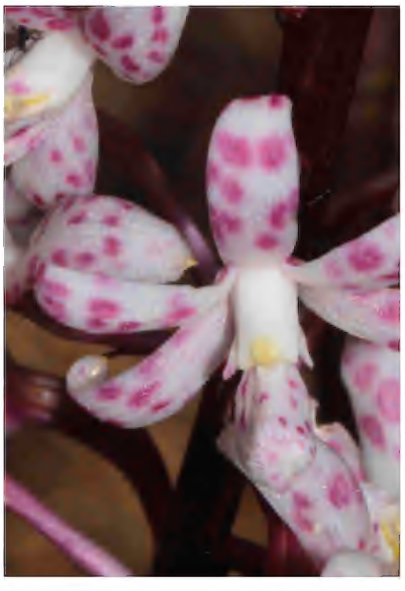
New Holland Honeyeater, *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*, on Candlestick Banksia, *Banksia attenuata*.

Beetles on Candlestick Banksia, *Banksia attenuata*.

Castlemaine Hyacinth Orchids

by Russell Stanley

With a bit of detective work and lots of help from a couple of devoted field-naturalists, this summer I was privileged to see all three species of Hyacinth Orchid growing around the Castlemaine district. I've listed a few of the distinguishing features of these species in the table below.

Blotched Hyacinth Orchid *Dipodium punctatum*	**Rosy Hyacinth Orchid** *Dipodium roseum*	**Spotted Hyacinth Orchid** *Dipodium pardalinum*
		
Distinguishing features:	**Distinguishing features:**	**Distinguishing features:**
Petals and sepals are quite straight, or only slightly curved.	Petals and sepals are curved with tips curled well backwards.	Petals and sepals are curved with tips curled well backwards.
The flower colour is white to light pink with many large spots and blotches of dark pink or maroon.	The flower colour is light to medium pink with many small faint darker pink spots.	The flower colour is white with many large pink spots.
The labellum is heavily striped or solid in colour. The central patch of hairs is quite pink.	The labellum is distinctly striped. The central patch of hairs is light pink.	The labellum is distinctly spotted. The central patch of hairs is white.
Usually flowers from late December or early to mid-January extending through summer.	Usually flowers from late November or early to mid-December extending through summer.	Usually flowers from late November or early to mid-December extending through summer.
Extremely rare in our district.	Uncommon in our district. Most commonly encountered species.	Quite rare in our district.

Observations

Geraldine Harris

After years of absence, a **Restless Flycatcher** has returned again this year (one came last year too). Geoff heard the 'scissor grinding' call and we discovered it repeatedly swooping from a *Eucalyptus caesia* (Silver Princess) towards our study window. We had such a good close-up view of its beautiful raised metallic crown feathers and the yellow-buff feathers across its breast. The bird was not making contact with the window as if it was collecting insects, but appeared more likely to be attacking its own reflection.

Last December, I was able to observe the activities in a tiny little **Willy Wagtail's nest**. The nest site was interesting, being on an exposed branch of a dead tree, but carefully placed under a protective branch so as to deter predator birds. After weeks of feeding, the photo shows the three baby birds almost too large for the nest!

Judy Hopley

On a recent drive along the Dean-Barkstead Road, we were pleased to see a number of *Dipodium pardalinum* - Spotted Hyacinth Orchids. Some years ago Richard Piesse told us that this was a good place to see this summer flowering orchid, but until recently we had been unsuccessful in spotting it here. This visit was a different experience, with many plants alongside both sides of the road. The orchids are to be found in a small area of the Wombat State Forest section of the road. The Wallaby Track, part of The Great Dividing Trail network, traverses the area and provides a lovely walk including an impressive one kilometre long railway cutting on a long-abandoned railway line. Thanks to Richard for his recommendation!

Alert - Cinnamon Fungus found near Castlemaine!

A visit to the Wewak Track area just prior to New Year resulted in a very unpleasant surprise – a locked gate across the entrance to the Loop Track with a sign from Parks Victoria indicating track closure due to Cinnamon Fungus disease containment!

The Loop Track runs from Wewak Track to Porcupine Ridge. The detection of Cinnamon Fungus, *Phytophthora cinnamomi,* in this area follows reports made about dieback occurring in the Endangered Scented Bush Pea, *Pultenaea graveolans*, by local walkers and naturalists. During our visits to the area in December we also saw dead plants of Fryerstown Grevillea, *Grevillea obtecta*, also Endangered, along Wewak Track and on Porcupine Ridge Rd near where it is crossed by the Goldfields Track. It is probably more widespread than is indicated by the current road closure.

Fryerstown Grevillea, *G obtecta*, endangered, showing early signs of dieback. Wewak Track, October 2021. *Photo: Euan Moore*

We can all do our bit to help slow the spread of this plant disease:

1. Minimise visits to this area as the fungus spores are in the soil and are spread by water and soil movement, vehicles, machinery and on boots and walking poles.
2. If we do visit the area, clean our boots and any equipment that comes in contact with the soil with Phytoclean* **before** and particularly **after** visiting.
3. Practice the same boot hygiene when visiting other areas of native bush, we don't know where else this disease may be lurking.

Globally, Cinnamon Fungus is one of the most devastating invasive species. Many native plants have no resistance to Cinnamon Fungus and will be killed if infected. Of particular concern are members of the *Proteaceae* (Grevilleas & Banksia, etc), Grass-trees and at least some members of the *Ericaceae* (heaths), *Fabaceae* (peas) and *Myrtaceae* (eucalypts and tea tree) families. Both the infected species in our area are listed under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 as Endangered. Other susceptible species in the region are also listed under the act. There is no known control for the disease which could potentially cause the extinction of some species.

Please take this threat seriously and practice good boot and equipment hygiene. See our website for more information about Cinnamon Fungus.

*The club is providing Phytoclean for spraying our boots at all excursions. If you also wish to have your own supply of Phytoclean, bring an empty spray bottle to an excursion and we can fill it for you.

Euan Moore

The 2023 Great Southern Bioblitz, 24-27 November 2023

Castlemaine Field Naturalists Club members and other local citizen scientists put in another huge effort towards the GSB 2023 Castlemaine Project, again delivering invaluable data for biodiversity records and research, and as always lots of learning and delights for those involved.

For the first time there were also two additional events held for the general public. On the Saturday evening a Moth Night was held at the Castlemaine Botanical Gardens. Illuminated moth sheets were set up and when it finally became dark the moths and other insects began to fly in. Despite threats of rain and the challenges of a near full moon, many species were seen and a thoroughly enjoyable time was had by all who attended. Thanks to Euan Moore and Brendan Sydes for setting up their moth sheets and lamps, and to Steve Williams, our attending moth scientist, who identified our fascinating insect visitors, explaining their key features.

Carrion Beetle, *Ptomaphila lacrymosa*

Plume moth, *Sinpunctiptilia emissalis*

Guenee's Emerald, *Chlorocoma dichloraria*

Steve Williams and others at the moth sheet (photo, Lou Citroen) and some of the many and varied visitors to the sheet (*photos: Jill Williams).*

On the Sunday the Castlemaine Landcare Group hosted a demonstration of the techniques of Waterwatch testing along Forest Creek. Landcare Group members were also in attendance to talk about their revegetation work to increase the habitat value for local indigenous wildlife, as well as their work to reintroduce indigenous plants. Thanks to Christine Kilmartin for hosting this event.

During the Bioblitz the most frequently observed species was the Common Brown butterfly (43), not recorded at all in the 2022 Bioblitz held at the end of October. Other species in the top eight were Sticky Everlasting (32), introduced Greater Quaking Grass (26), Sifton Bush (26), Common Raspwort (22), Australian Magpie (21), Superb Fairywren (20) and Grey Everlasting (19). All of these were well represented in 2022. Predictably, there were fewer Spring flowering plants and fewer fungi with the change of date to November by the bioblitz organisers.* The full suite of observations for our project can be viewed on iNaturalist at https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/great-southern-bioblitz-2023-castlemaine-region, and a sample of the wide range of sightings are shown below.

Lacewing (*Campion sp.*).
Photo: Brendan Sydes

Common Bird-orchid, *Chiloglottis valida.*
Photo: Chris Timewell

Cunningham's skinks (*Egernia cunninghami*).
Photo: Mez Woodward

Brown Tree Frog (*Litoria ewingii*). *Photo: Geoff Harris*

For a small project we produced a remarkable result with 37 observers making 2,474 observations and 721 species identified. In the bigger picture across the whole Southern Hemisphere leaderboard we ranked at number 27 of 183 projects for number of observations and 28 for number of species, against projects with many more observers. Full data sets and analysis can be found on our GSB website page.

The goal was not however to beat other projects, but to provide as much data as we could about the biodiversity and ecosystems of the local area. The data presented in the graphs on our GSB website page (see above) highlight some of the challenges.

Research grade indicates that an identification has been satisfactorily confirmed to (usually) species level by other members on the iNaturalist online database. With a category such as birds, all but three of the observations have been identified to research grade, and there is full identification agreement for all 85 species. Bird species and their identification criteria are very well known.

By contrast 442 (60%) of insect observations and 136 (54%) of insect species identifications have not yet been confirmed to research grade. Several reasons are probably at play. Insects are less well known and less popular, often small and elusive, and diagnostic criteria are less known and often very subtle, even sometimes requiring microscopic analysis. The numbers for fungi, plants, and to a lesser extent arachnids show a similar though less dramatic pattern.

But the overwhelming factor is the number of species that are either formally undescribed or as yet unknown. Fungi and insects in particular are poorly documented with less than 5-10% of Australian species likely to be named. Yet they are critical to biodiversity and ecological systems. It has been estimated that 70% of all Australian species, whether plants, animals, fungi or other, have yet to be discovered, documented, named and classified (Australia state of the environment 2021 (dcceew.gov.au)).

With our knowledge of Australia's biodiversity so incomplete, the work of citizen scientists and projects like the Bioblitz are hugely important. So thanks and well done to all involved, keep up the good work, and we'll see you in the 2024 Bioblitz!

Mez Woodward

*Ed. We have just been informed of the dates for the 2024 Great Southern Bioblitz: 20-23 September. Mark these dates in your diary!

Annual Challenge Bird Count – 2023 results

By Chris Timewell

Castlemaine Field Naturalists Club members have been involved in the Annual Challenge Bird Count for more than 20 years, and 2023 was no exception.

This event is overseen by BirdLife Australia but relies on local coordination. In essence, this fun event – and supposedly non-competitive – involves people from across Australia attempting to detect as many birds as possible during a single day from within their local area, in or around the first weekend in December. For the Castlemaine area, the sightings must be made within a 25km radius of the central township. And for a bird to be a legitimate record, it must be either seen by 2 or more people, or heard by 3 or more people.

There were three groups representing Castlemaine in 2023. Kerrie Jennings and I covered areas around Baringhup and to the west of Tarrengower. Geraldine Harris led a team of three through a range of locations around Barkers Creek, Harcourt and

eastern Muckleford. Sue Boekel – a member of BirdLife Castlemaine – led a team of three across a range of sites from Malmsbury to Maldon.

A detailed list of the birds that were detected in the Castlemaine area, and then lodged with BirdLife Australia, is provided on our website (Challenge Bird Count 2023 – Castlemaine Field Naturalists Club), together with results for previous years. In summary for 2023, 1575 individual birds were recorded from 108 different species. Some of the highlights included a single Sharp-tailed Sandpiper on a farm dam in Baringhup, a Black-tailed Native-hen in Muckleford, two Intermediate Egrets in the Harcourt area, 43 White-browed Woodswallows around Barkers Ck and Muckleford, and a Square-tailed Kite in Muckleford area.

Keep the event for this year in your diary: 30 November-1 December, 2024. Surely, we can beat the high-water mark of 2019!

FROM THE COMMITTEE

Welcome to 2024 and another year of exploration and enjoyment of our local flora and fauna!

Details of coming events are included in this newsletter and on our website. Please make sure you are a subscriber to our website (from Home Page) in order to receive monthly email posts about activities and any last minute changes.

Monthly meetings will be held in the Uniting Church Hall, Lyttleton St, except for winter months (June, July, August) when they will be held by Zoom for the convenience of members and speakers.

Membership Fees for 2024 (due 1st April)

The Committee is recommending that membership fees are unchanged for 2024. The following **motion** will be put to members at the February meeting: "That membership fees for 2024 remain the same as for 2023: Single membership $35, Family $50, Pensioner/Student/Single Concession $25, Family/Pensioner/ Student/Concession $30. *Moved* Peter Turner, *Seconded* Euan Moore."

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held on Friday March 8th, 7.30 pm before the usual monthly meeting observations and talk. All positions on the committee will be open, so you are encouraged to consider joining the committee. Members with a range of skills and interests are welcome. Members considering nominating for the committee are encouraged to contact the President or one of the committee members. Nomination forms are included with this newsletter and will be available at the February and March meetings.

Working Groups

The club has several working groups for different projects. These groups offer an excellent way for members to become familiar with the club's organisation and help with activities. Groups include Publications, Castlemaine Flora, Vegetation surveys, Bird surveys, Photo-points and Herbarium specimens. Please contact our President or Secretary for more information on these projects and how you can get involved.

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the club

COMING EVENTS

MONTHLY MEETING: Friday 9th February, 7.30pm

Uniting Church Fellowship Room, Lyttleton St.

"The Biodiversity Heritage Library: unlocking the foundation of the world's biodiversity knowledge"

Speaker: Nicole Kearney (Manager, Biodiversity Heritage Library Australia, Museums Victoria)

The Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL) is the world's largest virtual library of biodiversity literature and archival material. It is a global consortium of over 580 contributors who have together digitised 61 million pages of biodiversity knowledge, all of which is freely accessible online.

Nicole Kearney manages the Australian branch of the BHL. In 2023, BHL Australia received a grant from the Public Record Office Victoria to include the publications of Victoria's Field Naturalist Clubs in this global online resource. The Castlemaine Field Naturalists Club is a part of this project. This talk will introduce the BHL and then share the progress of its "Capturing the history of Victoria's Field Naturalists" project thus far.

Nicole is passionate about open access and the importance of historic literature in our understanding of how biodiversity has changed over time.

Observations: Members and visitors are invited to share their interesting observations at the meeting. Please email any photos to illustrate your report as JPEG file(s) to Euan Moore (calamanthus5@bigpond.com) by noon on the day of the meeting.

EXCURSION: Saturday 10th February, 1.30pm

"Mt Alexander– return walk from Leanganook picnic ground to Dog Rocks"

Leaders: Euan Moore & Jenny Rolland

Join us for an easy walk along a gently undulating track to the impressive Dog Rocks. Spectacular views and cool, tall forest. We will return to the Leanganook picnic ground for afternoon tea. Approx. 3km return, but turn back when you like.

Meet: 1.30pm at the Octopus (opposite the Castle Motel in Duke St) or **1.45pm** at the Leanganook Picnic Area, Mt Alexander.

Bring: Water, snacks, **clean** sturdy shoes, chairs and afternoon tea.

ROADSIDE CLEAN-UP: Monday 12th February, 9am

The first clean-up for the year along our stretch of the Pyrenees Highway

- Meet near Tait's Decorative Iron, corner of Willy Milly Rd and Pyrenees Highway.
- Garbage bags and safety vests supplied. Wear sturdy footwear and bring your own gloves and water.

Please contact Geoff Harris (mob 0418 392 183) if you can help with the clean-up.

Castlemaine Field Naturalists Club
PROGRAM

Monthly meetings are held in the Uniting Church Hall (UCH), Lyttleton Street, Castlemaine, commencing at 7.30pm.

Members and visitors are invited to share their interesting observations at these meetings. Please email any photos to illustrate your report as JPEG file(s) to Euan Moore (calamanthus5@bigpond.com) by noon on the day of the meeting.

Excursions (Saturday following the monthly meeting) leave from the car park opposite the Castle Motel, Duke Street at 1.30pm unless stated otherwise.

See 'Coming Events' page for more details about February events.

Fri February 9th, Meeting 7.30pm (UCH). Nicole Kearney (Museums Victoria) "The Biodiversity Heritage Library: unlocking the foundation of the world's biodiversity knowledge".

Sat February 10th, Excursion 1.30pm (or 1.45pm at Leanganook Picnic Area). Mt Alexander: walk to Dog Rocks and back for picnic.

Mon February 12th, Roadside Clean-up 9am.

Fri March 8th, Meeting 7.30pm (UCH). AGM. Guest speaker: Trent Nelson (Cultural Fire and Heritage Coordinator, Loddon Mallee, DEECA) "Cultural burning program in the Murray Goldfields district".

Sat March 9th, Excursion 1.30pm. Monitoring a cultural burn site near Newstead with Trent Nelson.

VISITORS ARE WELCOME AT CLUB ACTIVITIES

Castlemaine Naturalist - email newsletter material to: newsletter.cfnc@gmail.com
* Deadline for the March edition: **23rd February**

Club website (Webmaster: Ron Wescott) – https://castlemainefieldnaturalists.org.au

Subscriptions (Membership forms on CFNC website, membership fees due 1st April)
Ordinary membership: Single $35, Family $50
Pensioner or student: Single $25, Family $30
Subscription includes the monthly newsletter, Castlemaine Naturalist.

Committee

President:	Peter Turner	5470 6891
Vice-President:	Euan Moore	0407 519 091
Secretary:	Jenny Rolland	0400 565 092
Treasurer:	Geoff Harris	0418 392 183
Newsletter Editors:	Noel Young 5472 1345, Jenny Rolland, Jill Williams	
Committee:	Cathrine Harboe-Ree	0438 366 674
	Judith Nimmo	0419 386 015
	Jill Williams	0437 751 824

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